

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/973,624
Amendment dated May 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2008

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, claims 94 and 95 have been canceled.

Rejection of claim 94 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the rejection of claim 95 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

At page 2 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 94 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,726,133). The Examiner further rejects claim 95 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moss (U.S. Patent No. 4,080,431). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By way of this amendment, claims 94 and 95 have been canceled. The applicants do not believe that either reference describes all of the limitations set forth in these claims, especially with respect to the "tightly agglomerated" limitation recited in claims 94 and 95. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, these claims have been canceled. The applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

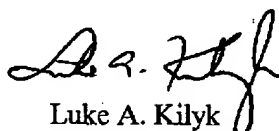
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §

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1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said
Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No. 3047-7434 (3600-459)
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
400 Holiday Court, Suite 102
Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel.: (540) 428-1701
Fax: (540) 428-1720